

Claims 1-6, as amended, remain herein. Claims 3-6 have been amended hereby.

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application.

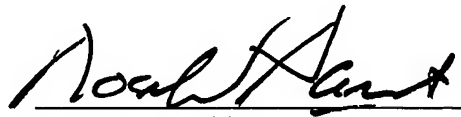
Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

It is applicants' belief that no fee is due. However, if it is determined that a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 19-4293, for which purpose a duplicate of this communication is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

April 20, 2005


Roger W. Parkhurst
Reg. No. 25,177

1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. (202) 429-6420
Fax (202) 429-3902